Sport Infrastructure on Active Reserves Policy

Aligned City Value/s	**Approachable**	**Responsive**	**Transparent**	**Innovative**
Responsible Directorate	**Community Development**			
Responsible Business Unit/s	**Recreation and Leisure Services**			
Responsible Officer	**Manager Recreation and Leisure**			
Affected Business Unit/s	**Development Services** **Facilities, Projects and Assets** **Parks and Environment** **Recreation and Leisure Services**			

Objective

To establish a transparent and consistent framework for the planning, provision, assessment and management of sport-related infrastructure on active reserves under the management of the City, including infrastructure delivered by the City, sporting clubs and other approved organisations.

Scope

This policy applies to sport-related infrastructure on active reserves managed by the City, including City-managed infrastructure and club-led infrastructure. It covers the planning, installation, renewal, maintenance and end of life.

This policy does not include:

- passive reserves
- privately owned facilities and sporting fields
- non-fixed assets/temporary/casual equipment
- leased/licensed areas where the City has separate agreements

Policy

The City supports the provision of sport-related infrastructure on active reserves to facilitate safe, accessible and sustainable participation in sport and recreation. The Public Open Space Strategy and Community Infrastructure Plan principles guide decisions regarding the requests for new or upgraded sport infrastructure on active reserves.

The City will consider in the decision-making process:

- Demonstrated community need
- Strategic alignment with Council and State Sporting Associations strategic plans and priorities
- Utilisation and participation outcomes
- Fit for purpose design
- Whole-of-life costs
- Compliance with legislation and standards
- Impacts of neighbouring properties and reserve users

Responsibility:

The City recognises that responsibilities for sports infrastructure may vary depending on how sport-related infrastructure is funded, located and managed.

The City is responsible for the provision, maintenance, renewal and end-of-life management of City-managed sports infrastructure on active reserves, with the exception of club installations.

Clubs are responsible for obtaining all approvals, funding management, provision, maintenance, compliance and end-of-life management of club-led sports infrastructure on City-managed active reserves. All new sport-related infrastructure, renewals or upgrades require prior approval from the City.

It is the responsibility of the club to maintain appropriate insurance coverage and ensure the infrastructure meets ongoing compliance with all legislative, industry, safety and operational requirements.

Infrastructure on land subject to a lease or licence will be managed in accordance with the relevant lease or licence agreement and the City's Lease and Licence Policy.

Funding:

The funding source for sports infrastructure will be determined on a case-by-case basis, considering community benefit, strategic alignment, available budgets, grant opportunities and Council priorities.

- City-managed infrastructure: Funding managed by the City, with opportunities for external contributions, partnerships or external grants where appropriate.
- Club-led infrastructure: Funding managed by the club or organisation with potential of further funding contributions.

Approval criteria - Club-led infrastructure:

The City will not guarantee that approval will be granted for Club-led infrastructure. In assessing the application, the City will consider the following:

a. The proposed works and the long-term impact on the reserve
b. Impact on other clubs/groups and the local community
c. Ability of the organisation to fund the works
d. Ongoing maintenance of proposed infrastructure

The implementation of this policy will be supported by a management practice that outlines the operational process for assessing, approving, installing, maintaining, renewing and removing sport-related infrastructure on City-managed active reserves.

Sports floodlighting

The City's priority is to provide sports floodlighting to align with relevant sporting and industry standards. The provision of floodlighting lux levels above 100 lux may be considered by the City on a case-by-case basis in alignment with relevant sporting and industry standards and demonstrated need.

The cost of the installation of any additional sports floodlighting (including associated works such as power upgrades if required) over and above the current sports floodlighting level (100 lux) will be the responsibility of the club or external organisations.

The City will project manage the installation and maintenance of floodlights on active reserves under the management of the City, to ensure there is a consistent approach to the level and quality of floodlights provided.

Floodlights installed on land managed by the City, remain the City's asset and may not be altered or removed without prior written approval of the City.

Community Consultation

The need for community consultation with residents will be determined by the proposed level of change to the current sports infrastructure provision or where new provision is proposed and there is a potential impact to nearby residential amenity. Consultation will be in line with the Community Engagement Policy and Business Unit consultation procedure.

Definitions

Active reserves: public open space within the City which can be utilised for fitness, health, sporting and recreation activities for both club, business and residential use.

Club: a not for profit and incorporated sporting club, association, or community group in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act.

Club-led: sport infrastructure that is proposed, funded, delivered and maintained by a club.

City-managed: sport infrastructure that is identified, planned, delivered and maintained by the City.

Sport-related infrastructure: buildings and installations that are required to facilitate the development of a sporting area including but not limited to floodlighting, posts, fences, clubrooms, changing rooms, storage facilities, signage, scoreboards, seating.

Relevant management practices/documents

Asset Management Policy
Community Engagement Policy
Community Infrastructure Plan 2023-2033
Disability Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2031
Lease and Licence Policy
Lease and Licence Management Practice
Public Health Plan 2026-2031
Public Open Space Strategy 2021-2031
Sport Infrastructure on Active Reserves Management Practice (future document)

Legislation/local law requirements

City of Stirling Local Government Property Local Law 2009
Land Administration Act 1997
Occupiers' Liability Act 1995

Office use only				
Relevant delegations	Not applicable			
Initial Council adoption	**Date**	3 November 2026	**Resolution #**	1126/042
Last reviewed	**Date**	Click or tap to enter a date.	**Resolution #**	
Next review due	**Date**	3 November 2028		